

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 180**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 18, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Jimenez, Assemblyman Schaer, Assemblywomen  
Lampitt, Mosquera, Murphy, Assemblyman Calabrese, Assemblywoman  
McKnight, Senators Greenstein and Ruiz**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges support for the “Keep Families Together Act.”

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/28/2018)**

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to  
2       support the “Keep Families Together Act” and commends the  
3       efforts of U.S. Senators Menendez and Booker for sponsoring the  
4       Act.  
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6   **WHEREAS**, On April 6, 2018, the United States Department of Justice  
7       enacted a “zero tolerance” policy under which all unauthorized  
8       crossings at the Southwestern border of the United States will be  
9       treated as criminal offenses, instead of civil offenses; and  
10   **WHEREAS**, On May 7, 2018, Attorney General Jeff Sessions  
11       announced that all adults who arrive at the border would be  
12       prosecuted for illegal entry, even if they attempt to seek asylum;  
13       and  
14   **WHEREAS**, These federal policies separate families crossing the border  
15       without authorization, since the parents are placed in criminal  
16       detention centers while the children are taken into the care of the  
17       U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and  
18   **WHEREAS**, During a May 24, 2018, Senate Judiciary Committee  
19       hearing, U.S. Customs and Border Protection testified that 658  
20       children were taken from 638 parents during a 14-day period in  
21       May, an average of 47 children being taken from their parents each  
22       day; and  
23   **WHEREAS**, U.S. Senators Bob Menendez, the ranking member of the  
24       Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC), and Cory Booker,  
25       also a member of the SFRC, joined 30 other U.S. Senators in  
26       announcing introduction of Senate Bill No. 3036, the “Keep  
27       Families Together Act,” to keep immigrant families together and  
28       prevent the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from separating  
29       children from their parents at the border; and  
30   **WHEREAS**, The “Keep Families Together Act” was developed in  
31       consultation with child welfare experts to ensure the federal  
32       government is acting in the best interest of children; and  
33   **WHEREAS**, To ensure the “Keep Families Together Act” protects the  
34       welfare of children, the bill allows children to be separated from  
35       their parents only in the event they are being trafficked or abused  
36       by their parents and provides for an immediate review by a superior  
37       upon the recommendation to separate, and only after consultation  
38       with a child welfare expert; and  
39   **WHEREAS**, This nation has a responsibility to ensure children and  
40       families are able to apply for asylum, trafficking protection, and  
41       other specialized forms of relief without the paralyzing fear of  
42       being separated and shipped off to different facilities across the  
43       country and the federal government’s actions should be halted;  
44       now, therefore,  
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46       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
47       Jersey (the Senate concurring):

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